

UNITED  
STATES  
EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION  
IN INDIA

*Adam Grotsky*

New Director of

# Fulbright Program

in India



Courtesy Adam Grotsky

I have been interested in returning to India for some time now. I wasn't sure what my newest 'incarnation' would be," says Adam Grotsky, the new executive director of the U.S. Educational Foundation in India (USEFI), who arrived in early May for his third stay here.

"I am very excited to be working with students and scholars from the flagship exchange program of the United States," says Grotsky, who has been engaged in international education since 1992, mostly in undergraduate study abroad programs. "What excites me about this position is that it...also allows me to branch out into other areas of international education and to work with top scholars from India and the U.S. on a variety of programs and in a wide range of disciplines.

"I hope to work with the USEFI Board of Directors to determine ways that we can continue to increase the diversity of Fulbright program participants," says Grotsky. "I want to...reach underserved and non-elite populations, as well as students and

scholars from under-represented regions of India."

Grotsky's connection to South Asia goes back to when he was two years old. His father was helping the American Foundation for the Blind train teachers and set up schools in Dacca, East Pakistan. The family evacuated in 1971, but photos and stories spurred his decision to spend a year in Sri Lanka as a high school student in 1985. Later, he was able to live in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, as part of the University of Wisconsin's College Year in India Program. "I truly immersed myself in the culture, becoming proficient in Hindi while studying Indian classical music and conducting field-based research on the system of higher education in India," says Grotsky. "That experience was one of the most important of my life, and to this day fuels my dedication to making such opportunities as widely available as possible."

After obtaining his Master's degree in South Asian Studies, Grotsky spent three years in India coordinating the same exchange program that had benefited him. —L.K.L.